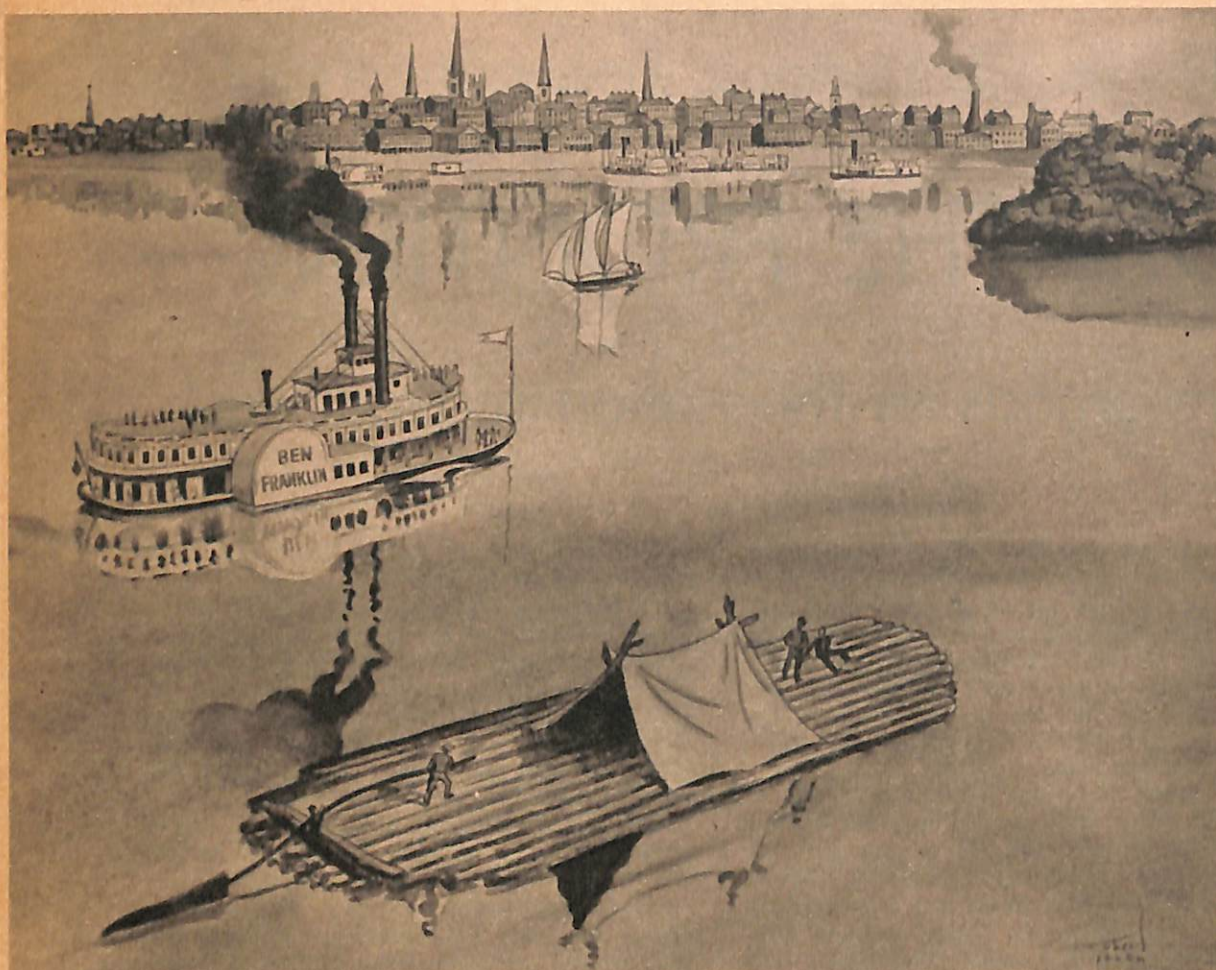
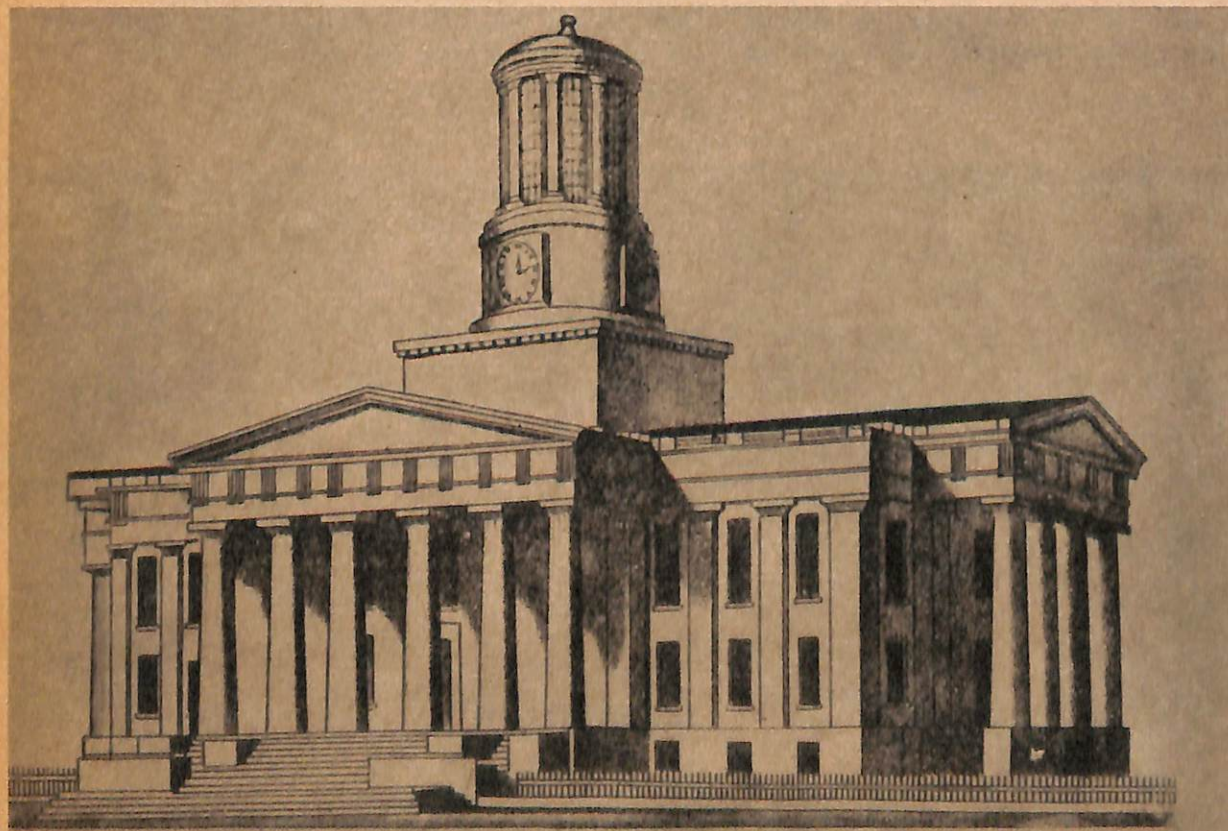




OHIO COMMERCE, then still a blend of modern steamboats and old-time flatboats and rafts, increased greatly during the 1838-1863 quarter-century.



LOUISVILLE'S mounting civic pride reached a new high after the Jefferson County courthouse, a classic of Greek Revival architecture, was erected.

Louisville felt its

world's largest commercial business in proportion to its population.

Gas had done more, however, than merely light stores and homes. It also had lighted dark streets which previously were infested by robbers and thugs. The gas street lights—there were 461 by 1848—had turned night into day and had reduced the crime rate to the point that there was facetious talk that it might be possible to reduce the city's 55-man police force with a resultant saving in tax dollars.

Louisville was bursting with civic pride, and no doubt about it, for the first time.

This new pride shone through in many ways: a new Jefferson County courthouse, designed by Gideon Shryock, was underway; churches were being built all over the city; the University of Louisville, which traced its origin back to 1798, had been chartered; some streets were being paved with brick; the city had been authorized by the State Legislature to build a water-works; Cave Hill Cemetery had been dedicated; the Kentucky Institute for the Blind had been established, and the State had been invited to move its capital from Frankfort to the city, a suggestion that was beaten in the Senate by 23-14 and in the House 60-30.

So much had happened on the civic front, in fact, that the unique Louisville Sinking Fund was created as a debt-service agency to handle finances necessary for new and expanded municipal services and facilities.

Louisville's pride was given another shot in the arm in 1848 when Zachary Taylor, who had come to the city as a baby and who had lived here for 40 years, was elected 12th President of the United States.

Taylor, who had risen to national fame as the hero of the War with Mexico, was to live to serve in office for only 16 months. After his death, he was returned to Louisville for burial in what now is the national cemetery on Brownsboro Road near his home.

Strangely, Louisville had played an important role in the life of another President-to-be a few years before Taylor vaulted to prominence, but that incident had gone completely unnoticed.

In the early fall of 1841, a heart-sick and unknown young Illinois lawyer, a native of Kentucky, arrived in Louisville to spend the better part of a month visiting with his friend, Joshua Speed, at Farmington, the historic Speed home off Bardstown Road.

The young lawyer was sunk in the depths of bitter despair because his first great love affair seemed to have come to an end. Seeing the mental state of his friend, Speed, who had gone to Illinois to open a store, invited him to come for a stay at Farmington.

While visiting in the house which Jefferson, his political idol, had designed, the young lawyer was able to bring his distress under control. Early in September he returned to Illinois, patched up the love affair, married the girl and went on to the political destiny which was climaxed when he was elected 16th President.

The young lawyer was Abraham Lincoln.